



## News Release

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### City councilman to serve on influential transportation committee

**RIVERSIDE, Calif.** – City of Riverside Ward 7 Councilman Steve Adams has been asked to serve on a committee that could help shape national transportation policy.

The councilman has been named to the newly created National Transportation Steering Committee, a Texas-based panel which focuses on issues confronting all 50 states. The steering committee will hold meetings throughout the country to develop a unified national transportation policy for presentation to the U.S. Congress. He is the first Californian asked to join the committee.

“We’ve been tasked to bring a unified transportation policy to Congress,” Councilman Adams said. “This is a great honor. It gives Riverside and California a strong voice in a national transportation policy forum.”

Four years ago, Councilman Adams proposed a transportation policy called Operation FreeFlow, a plan to alleviate transportation congestion in overburdened goods movement corridors. More than 50 percent of all goods offloaded in the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach (the busiest containerports in the United States) comes through Riverside. Approximately 16 million containers arrived in the ports last year.

Operation FreeFlow calls for sweeping changes, such as creating short-haul truck routes from port to inland depots, increasing revenues on shipping containers to support infrastructural needs, and mandating off-peak travel times for goods carriers.

Councilman Adams was asked to join the new policy steering subcommittee after he presented an overview of Operation FreeFlow last week in Washington at a national transportation conference.

“Riverside is the No. 1 choke point for goods coming into this country,” he said. “The rest of the country has similar problems, but nothing on the scale we see locally. We’re the most negatively impacted with traffic delays, cost and air quality. It’s significant that our voice be heard.”

The committee will meet quarterly, the councilman said. In October, he said, a national transportation conference is proposed for Riverside, a first for the Inland Empire.

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